

Page 14, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--;

between lines 18 and 19, insert the following heading:

--DETAILED DISCUSSION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 15, line 29, delete "the".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 and add new claims 16-18 as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended) Method for measuring the distance of an object from a measuring device, comprising the following steps:

a) emitting a signal;

b) directing the signal towards an object;

c) detecting the signal diffused by the object;

d) comparing the detected signal with the emitted signal so as to obtain a comparison signal representing the distance [travelled] traveled by the emitted signal and the object diffused signal;

[characterized in comprising the steps of:]

e) wherein, prior to carrying out [before] step a) there is a measuring device calibration step so as to associate [to] a prefixed distance value with a prefixed comparison signal value [a prefixed distance value];